



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for July 9<sup>th</sup>

### **18 Jun - The Strange Case of Barrett Brown**

*With the media fixated on Edward Snowden, it's amazing that the case of Barrett Brown hasn't gained more traction. We've included a recent article from The Nation below.*

#### **MORE:**

Peter Ludlow (*The Nation*)

In early 2010, journalist and satirist Barrett Brown was working on a book on political pundits, when the hacktivist collective Anonymous caught his attention. He soon began writing about its activities and potential. In a defense of the group's anti-censorship operations in Australia published on February 10, Brown declared, "I am now certain that this phenomenon is among the most important and under-reported social developments to have occurred in decades, and that the development in question promises to threaten the institution of the nation-state and perhaps even someday replace it as the world's most fundamental and relevant method of human organization."

By then, Brown was already considered by his fans to be the Hunter S. Thompson of his generation. In point of fact he wasn't like Hunter S. Thompson, but was more of a throwback—a sharp-witted, irreverent journalist and satirist in the mold of Ambrose Bierce or Dorothy Parker. His acid tongue was on display in his co-authored 2007 book, *Flock of Dodos: Behind Modern Creationism, Intelligent Design and the Easter Bunny*, in which he declared: "This will not be a polite book. Politeness is wasted on the dishonest, who will always take advantage of any well-intended concession."

But it wasn't Brown's acid tongue so much as his love of minutiae (and ability to organize and explain minutiae) that would ultimately land him in trouble. Abandoning his book on pundits in favor of a book on Anonymous, he could not have known that delving into the territory of hackers and leaks would ultimately lead to his facing the prospect of spending the rest of his life in prison. In light of the bombshell revelations published by Glenn Greenwald and Barton Gellman about government and corporate spying, Brown's case is a good—and underreported—reminder of the considerable risk faced by reporters who report on leaks.

In February 2011, a year after Brown penned his defense of Anonymous, and against the background of its actions during the Arab Spring, Aaron Barr, CEO of the private intelligence company HBGary, claimed to have identified the leadership of the hacktivist collective. (In fact, he only had screen names of a few members). Barr's boasting provoked a brutal hack of HBGary by a related group called Internet Feds (it would soon change its name to "LulzSec"). Splashy enough to attract the attention of *The Colbert Report*, the hack defaced and destroyed servers and websites belonging to HBGary. Some 70,000 company e-mails were downloaded and posted online. As a final insult to injury, even the contents of Aaron Barr's iPad were remotely wiped.

The HBGary hack may have been designed to humiliate the company, but it had the collateral effect of dropping a gold mine of information into Brown's lap. One of the first things he discovered was a plan to neutralize Glenn Greenwald's defense of Wikileaks by undermining them both. ("Without the support of people like Glenn, wikileaks would fold," read one slide.) The plan called for "disinformation," exploiting strife within the organization and fomenting external rivalries—"creating messages around actions to sabotage or discredit the opposing organization," as well as a plan to submit fake documents and then call out the error." Greenwald, it was argued, "if pushed," would "choose professional preservation over cause."

Other plans targeted social organizations and advocacy groups. Separate from the plan to target Greenwald and WikiLeaks, HBGary was part of a consortia that submitted a proposal to develop a "persona management"

system for the United States Air Force, that would allow one user to control multiple online identities for commenting in social media spaces, thus giving the appearance of grassroots support or opposition to certain policies.

The data dump from the HBGary hack was so vast that no one person could sort through it alone. So Brown decided to crowdsource the effort. He created a wiki page, called it ProjectPM, and invited other investigative journalists to join in. Under Brown's leadership, the initiative began to slowly untangle a web of connections between the US government, corporations, lobbyists and a shadowy group of private military and information security consultants.

One connection was between Bank of America and the Chamber of Commerce. WikiLeaks had claimed to possess a large cache of documents belonging to Bank of America. Concerned about this, Bank of America approached the United States Department of Justice. The DOJ directed it to the law and lobbying firm Hunton and Williams, which does legal work for Wells Fargo and General Dynamics and also lobbies for Koch Industries, Americans for Affordable Climate Policy, Gas Processors Association, Entergy among many other firms. The DoJ recommended that Bank of America hire Hunton and Williams, explicitly suggesting Richard Wyatt as the person to work with. Wyatt, famously, was the lead attorney in the Chamber of Commerce's lawsuit against the Yes Men.

In November 2010, Hunton and Williams organized a number of private intelligence, technology development and security contractors—HBGary, plus Palantir Technologies, Berico Technologies and, according to Brown, a secretive corporation with the ominous name Endgame Systems—to form “Team Themis”—‘themis’ being a Greek word meaning “divine law.” Its main objective was to discredit critics of the Chamber of Commerce, like Chamber Watch, using such tactics as creating a “false document, perhaps highlighting periodical financial information,” giving it to a progressive group opposing the Chamber, and then subsequently exposing the document as a fake to “prove that US Chamber Watch cannot be trusted with information and/or tell the truth.” In addition, the group proposed creating a “fake insider persona” to infiltrate Chamber Watch. They would “create two fake insider personas, using one as leverage to discredit the other while confirming the legitimacy of the second.” The leaked e-mails showed that similar disinformation campaigns were being planned against WikiLeaks and Glenn Greenwald.

It was clear to Brown that these were actions of questionable legality, but beyond that, government contractors were attempting to undermine Americans' free speech—with the apparent blessing of the DOJ. A group of Democratic congressmen asked for an investigation into this arrangement, to no avail.

By June 2011, the plot had thickened further. The FBI had the goods on the leader of LulzSec, one Hector Xavier Monsegur, who went under the nom de guerre Sabu. The FBI arrested him on June 7, 2011, and (according to court documents) turned him into an informant the following day. Just three days before his arrest, Sabu had been central to the formation of a new group called AntiSec, which comprised his former LulzSec crew members, as well as members as Anonymous. In early December AntiSec hacked the website of a private security company called Stratfor Global Intelligence. On Christmas Eve, it released a trove of some 5 million internal company e-mails. AntiSec member and Chicago activist Jeremy Hammond has pled guilty to the attack and is currently facing ten years in prison for it.

The contents of the Stratfor leak were even more outrageous than those of the HBGary hack. They included discussion of opportunities for renditions and assassinations. For example, in one video, Statfor's vice president of intelligence, Fred Burton, suggested taking advantage of the chaos in Libya to render Lockerbie bomber Abdelbaset al-Megrahi, who had been released from prison on compassionate grounds due to his terminal illness. Burton said that the case “was personal.” When someone pointed out in an e-mail that such a move would almost certainly be illegal—“This man has already been tried, found guilty, sentenced...and served time”—another Stratfor employee responded that this was just an argument for a more efficient solution: “One more reason to just bugzap him with a hellfire. :-)”

(Stratfor employees also seemed to take a keen interest in Jeremy Scahill's writings about Blackwater in *The Nation*, copying and circulating entire articles, with comments suggesting a principle interest was in the question of whether Blackwater was setting up a competing intelligence operation. E-mails also showed grudging respect for Scahill: "Like or dislike Scahill's position (or what comes of his work), he does an amazing job outing [Blackwater].")

When the contents of the Stratfor leak became available, Brown decided to put ProjectPM on it. A link to the Stratfor dump appeared in an Anonymous chat channel; Brown copied it and pasted it into the private chat channel for ProjectPM, bringing the dump to the attention of the editors.

Brown began looking into Endgame Systems, an information security firm that seemed particularly concerned about staying in the shadows. "Please let HBGary know we don't ever want to see our name in a press release," one leaked e-mail read. One of its products, available for a \$2.5 million annual subscription, gave customers access to "zero-day exploits"—security vulnerabilities unknown to software companies—for computer systems all over the world. *Business Week* published a story on Endgame in 2011, reporting that "Endgame executives will bring up maps of airports, parliament buildings, and corporate offices. The executives then create a list of the computers running inside the facilities, including what software the computers run, and a menu of attacks that could work against those particular systems." For Brown, this raised the question of whether Endgame was selling these exploits to foreign actors and whether they would be used against computer systems in the United States. Shortly thereafter, the hammer came down.

The FBI acquired a warrant for Brown's laptop, gaining the authority to seize any information related to HBGary, Endgame Systems, Anonymous and, most ominously, "email, email contacts, 'chat', instant messaging logs, photographs, and correspondence." In other words, the FBI wanted his sources.

When the FBI went to serve Brown, he was at his mother's house. Agents returned with a warrant to search his mother's house, retrieving his laptop. To turn up the heat on Brown, the FBI initiated charges against his mother for obstruction of justice for concealing his laptop computer in her house. (Facing criminal charges, on March 22, 2013, his mother, Karen McCutchin, pled guilty to one count of obstructing the execution of a search warrant. She faces up to twelve months in jail. Brown maintains that she did not know the laptop was in her home.)

By his own admission, the FBI's targeting of his mother made Brown snap. In September 2012, he uploaded an incoherent YouTube video, in which he explained that he had been in treatment for an addiction to heroin, taking the medication Suboxone, but had gone off his meds and now was in withdrawal. He threatened the FBI agent that was harassing his mother, by name, warning:

"I know what's legal, I know what's been done to me.... And if it's legal when it's done to me, it's going to be legal when it's done to FBI Agent Robert Smith—who is a criminal."

"That's why [FBI special agent] Robert Smith's life is over. And when I say his life is over, I'm not saying I'm going to kill him, but I am going to ruin his life and look into his fucking kids.... How do you like them apples?"

The media narrative was immediately derailed. No longer would this be a story about the secretive information-military-industrial complex; now it was the sordid tale of a crazy drug addict threatening an FBI agent and his (grown) children. Actual death threats against agents are often punishable by a few years in jail. But Brown's actions made it easier for the FBI to sell some other pretext to put him away for life.

The Stratfor data included a number of unencrypted credit card numbers and validation codes. On this basis, the DOJ accused Brown of credit card fraud for having shared that link with the editorial board of ProjectPM. Specifically, the FBI charged him with traffic in stolen authentication features, access device fraud and

aggravated identity theft, as well as an obstruction of justice charge (for being at his mother's when the initial warrant was served) and charges stemming from his threats against the FBI agent. All told, Brown is looking at century of jail time: 105 years in federal prison if served sequentially. He has been denied bail.

Considering that the person who carried out the actual Stratfor hack had several priors and is facing a maximum of ten years, the inescapable conclusion is that the problem is not with the hack itself but with Brown's journalism. As Glenn Greenwald remarked in *The Guardian*: "It is virtually impossible to conclude that the obscenely excessive prosecution he now faces is unrelated to that journalism and his related activism."

Today, Brown is in prison and ProjectPM is under increased scrutiny by the DOJ, even as its work has ground to a halt. In March, the DOJ served the domain hosting service CloudFlare with a subpoena for all records on the ProjectPM website, and in particular asked for the IP addresses of everyone who had accessed and contributed to ProjectPM, describing it as a "forum" through which Brown and others would "engage in, encourage, or facilitate the commission of criminal conduct online." The message was clear: Anyone else who looks into this matter does so at their grave peril.

Some journalists are now understandably afraid to go near the Stratfor files. The broader implications of this go beyond Brown; one might think that what we are looking at is Cointelpro 2.0—an outsourced surveillance state—but in fact it's worse. One can't help but infer that the US Department of Justice has become just another security contractor, working alongside the HBGarys and Stratfors on behalf of corporate bidders, with no sense at all for the justness of their actions; they are working to protect corporations and private security contractors and give them license to engage in disinformation campaigns against ordinary citizens and their advocacy groups. The mere fact that the FBI's senior cybersecurity advisor has recently moved to Hunton and Williams shows just how incestuous this relationship has become. Meanwhile, the Department of Justice is also using its power and force to trample on the rights of citizens like Barrett Brown who are trying to shed light on these nefarious relationships. In order to neutralize those who question or investigate the system, laws are being reinterpreted or extended or otherwise misappropriated in ways that are laughable—or would be if the consequences weren't so dire.

While the media and much of the world have been understandably outraged by the revelation of the NSA's spying programs, Barrett Brown's work was pointing to a much deeper problem. It isn't the sort of problem that can be fixed by trying to tweak a few laws or by removing a few prosecutors. The problem is not with bad laws or bad prosecutors. What the case of Barrett Brown has exposed is that we are confronting a different problem altogether. It is a systemic problem. It is the failure of the rule of law.

### **23 Jun - Thank You From Tom Manning**

*Folks from the Jericho Movement received this thank you in a letter from Tom.*

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He says, "To all of you who took the time to contact the Bureau of Prison and Federal Medical Center on my behalf.

On Friday, June 21st I was told I will be getting the shoulder surgery and physical therapy that had been denied me - not for medical - but for economic reasons.

Of all the joint surgeries and joint replacements I have had to have all but one was due to beatings by prison, police and FBI personal, followed by long periods of neglect and or less than adequate medical treatment.

None of this has been re-addressed and corrected without the support from all of you. The attorneys, the medical people, organizations, and individuals who have, each in your own way shown the will to act when needed. Activists! One And All. I thank you. And pledge to lend my hand where and when it is needed. In short- my hand is your hand.

Jericho will keep everyone updated on my, Maumin's, Jalil's, Mondo's, Mutulu's, Robert Seth Hayes', Lynn Stewart's and all political prisoners in need of better health care, and your support.

Amandla! Viva! Nelson Mandela!  
Tom Manning 23 June, 2013

### **25 Jun - Chris Lagergren Case Continued by State of Florida**

*Prior to Chris' last court appearance on Monday June 10, 2013 the State offered a plea bargain that had mandatory jail time as one of the conditions. This was unacceptable to Chris and his attorneys.*

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Chris and his defense team appeared in court on June 10, 2013 and announced they were ready for trial. The State Attorney also announced they were ready for trial. The exact trial date was not given but the Judge stated it would be the week of Jury selection, the last week of June. Needless to say this caused a lot of stress for Chris in not knowing when to announce the trial date to family and friends. Late in the afternoon on Friday June 14, 2013 Chris' attorney received a call from the State Attorney's office informing him they filed a Stipulated Motion to Continue and the Judge granted the State their Continuance to August. Chris' defense team is still waiting to receive a copy of this Motion to see what the Stipulations were on behalf of the State.

Chris' next court appearance is now scheduled for August 12, 2013 with a trial date occurring the week of August 24th, a full 2 years after the first alleged incident occurred on August 22, 2011. This has been a long and drawn-out ordeal for Chris and others involved in so many ways. Chris wants to express his sincere thanks to everyone who supports him, financially and emotionally.

We know in the end, we will prevail and we will continue to fight for what we know is right in our minds, and in our hearts. We are the voice for the voiceless, we are the ones who carry the torch, who never back down, who do no harm. For it is us, and us alone, who can and will make a difference for them!

In solidarity always!

### **25 Jun - New writings by Walter Bond**

*We're including a new piece Animal Liberation Front prisoner Walter Bond has written as well as the transcript of an address made on his behalf at the annual AR conference in Washington, DC.*

#### **MORE:**

#### **June 25<sup>th</sup> - The Cruelty of Industrial Technology**

The Cruelty of Industrial Technology

There is no brutality as wicked as systematic cruelty, and systematic cruelty only becomes widespread by aid of technology. When I was a young man before and leading up to my Vegan awakening I built slaughterhouses. Industrial plumbing, welding, structural steel and machine installation were my daily routines. One of those machines was called 'the beater'. The beater is a 10'x10' stainless steel monster. It is one in a series of machines set in a row and dedicated night and day to the disembodying process of hogs.

After a 500 pound hog has had his or her throat cut and been hung upside down to bleed to death, he or she then gets disemboweled by a series of slaughterhouse workers evenly dispersed along the kill floor. After disembowelment is complete all organs are sent to another area of the kill floor via stainless steel trays rolling on a conveyor belt. The next part of the process is what's called the 'hog bath' (which I also installed). The hog bath is a 50 foot scalding hot tubular bathtub that the hog carcasses go through mainly to slacken the skin to be peeled, salted and stacked. But before that happens, the now dead and hollow remains of a once living and feeling being must go through 'the beater'.

The inside of the beater is similar in design to a car wash except the rollers all stand vertically and are on immobile swing arms. There are four spindles on each side and each spindle contains five, six foot metal lengths, each six inches wide and known as 'strapping'. Every six inches on center running the length of the strapping is a bolt. Around each bolt is a large nylon rope with a loop and two knots that hang out of the strapping approximately 18 inches. When the machine is operational the spindles whirl with incredible torque and the nylon knots beat the hair of the hogs dead and softened skin.

One must always lock and tag out the electricity box while working inside the beater so that it is not possible to start it by accident while anyone is inside. Failure to do this has actually ended with workers being beaten to death while working inside the beater. Since all the strapping and bolts are made of stainless steel, impact drills cannot be used for quick assembly because stainless steel binds. What this means is that someone must individually set every single nylon rope and screw the bolts down by hand. That person was me in 1995 in Logansport, Indiana. It took me five 12 hour shifts to complete the task.

While working inside this machine it is simply impossible not to imagine how terrible it would be if you were stuck inside accidentally (or intentionally). It's one thing to look at it from the outside, where it looks like a huge metal box, but inside it's a mathematically macabre sight. It also gave me another eerie feeling, which was that very few living beings will ever see the guts of this monster; it is for the newly dead only.

Another nightmare I was to witness was the blood tanks. On the kill floor there are drains that deal with the constant flow of blood. These drains are beyond industrial grade as blood is nothing like water and has a corrosive element. Beneath the kill floor are huge cylindrical tanks that hold the blood until it gets processed into industrial byproducts or disposed of. Before one can enter the inside of a blood tank for maintenance it has to be carefully drained and aired (which is a phenomenally wretched odor). Blood outside of the body coagulates and to do this it leeches large amounts of oxygen. If you step into a blood tank even drained the remaining coagulating blood will literally take the air out of your lungs and you will asphyxiate to death on the spot!

And so it goes, In vivisection and Animal research there are catalogs teeming with vices, clamps, restraints and torture devices to aid in the sinister science of flaying Animals to play with their guts. The deforestation of the Earth is done by megalithic yellow death machines that murder old growth forests worldwide with speed and precision. In human warfare we have rapid fire weapons, rockets, nuclear arms, chemical agents, drones and the latest technological advancements in the art of murder. Indeed the history of technological advancement is the history of cut, burn, torture, poison, explode and destroy! From the iron maiden, thumbscrew, breaking on the rack, the fearful Eliza and braiding on the wheel – to tanks, daisy cutters and napalm, and more, and more, AND MORE! The history of technology becomes ever more cruel and efficient as time proceeds.

Technology amplifies our most base and devastating endeavors. If I had been in the Animal slaughter business in the pre- industrial age and then had a compassionate awakening I could have easily spent the rest of my life helping Animals and at least could have died knowing I did them more hands on good than I aided in their harm. But as it stands the machines that I installed and animated have been methodically murdering every second of every day since 1995. Although I may be viewed as a prolific Animal Liberation activist, in reality I have aided machines that murder continuously. A death toll I can never roll back.

Before small arms technology, namely the handgun, one had to garret, skewer, stab, bash, poison or blunt an enemy to death. Even a renaissance serial murderer would have been hard pressed to kill in a lifetime as many people as the squeeze of a trigger or the push of a button can now kill.

Technology gets used far more for violent and nefarious activities than it ever will for caring and compassionate ones. Because violence, murder and slavery while often times economically or politically profitable are also dangerous, disgusting and eventually maddening to the perpetrators. While caring, caressing, petting and nurturing are pleasing and actually cannot be fully experienced through mechanical mediums. This leads to a

disassociation, and disconnectivity. We become blind to the reality of what high technology is doing in abundance, namely violence, and we glorify its comforts and assistance. This is made possible in large part by placement of technologies. Anything that is an aid or viewed as beneficial is in the open, accessible and visibly promoted — optometry, dentistry, car lots, hospitals, laser removal, etc. — while anything vile and vicious is hidden and inaccessible, such as military bases, slaughterhouses, Animal laboratories, etc.

Governments and societies in general are aware that out of sight truly does equal out of mind. And by out of mind I am talking about disassociation. Since this is a prerequisite to the backdrop of technologically advanced human societies it is not surprising that we find much disassociation within liberation struggles as well. There's a growing trend to not attempt to emotionally understand the reality of victimization or oppression but use catchwords like Animals, Earth, hierarchy, patriarchy, capitalism et al. as reoccurring rhetorical symbols. This is dangerous because it is a flight from the reality that is experienced by the oppressed and downtrodden all around this globe, be they human, Animal or ecosystem. In the final analysis, dissociative flights of philosophy are largely a privilege of those who are not oppressed.

In today's world of the computer, we are witnessing a greater degree of disassociation and de-sensitivity than ever before in human history! Coupled with the mental and emotion damage which ensues. Once again we only see what is convenient and not what is so detrimental. All the information at the tip of our fingers often desensitizes us before it enlightens. People live in a mental netherworld that is neither here, nor there, but some part of the techno-hive. If you go into the city streets you will witness people stumbling around in droves fixated on pocket-sized screens of various technological devices. What is real is the completely fabricated and what is completely fabricated is now of mass importance.

Babies in their cribs are given the soft dull glow of a computer screen to curl up with, transfixed at their new electronic parent. And many toddlers now prefer an iPad to the voice of their mothers. Many people that consider themselves 'activists' and 'radical' or 'militant' just mean that those are the kind of websites that get them interested and excited, and that their avatar and facade personalities online are rigid and intolerant. In the real world they are scared to make eye contact with strangers on a bus.

You will find time and time again that those that put action above ideas and real world resistance above symbolic protests and gestures are the ones that on a deep fundamental level refuse to rationalize away the terrors of this world. And are also committed to effecting real world changes for reasons outside of their job, prestige, popularity, or to share and beg validation from strangers on a computer screen. The real fight for autonomy, liberation and life lies against the machines, outside of technology and off the grid. Until we start working outside the system we are just aiding, in innovative new ways, our own and others' destruction. Every bit as part of the problem as I was on the day I finished building 'the beater' and watched it do its grisly work, for the first..... and last time.

### **June 30<sup>th</sup> - Walter Bond's address to the AR Conference 2013 in Washington DC**

Hello, my name is Walter Bond and I am a prisoner in the clandestine struggle for Animal Liberation. I will only take up a couple moments of your time today. It's great that concern for Animals' rights and welfare are finally beginning to take root and that veganism is flourishing in all parts of the developed world.

Today will no doubt be a great day for you to network with others and hopefully learn a great deal about the plight of Animals in farming, food production, entertainment, vivisection and what laughingly passes as scientific research.

You will most likely hear from a variety of hosts, organizers, speakers and book authors. And I hope that whatever your experience is today, that it is lasting and it motivates you to help the Animals... not only to "feel their pain," form "spiritual connections" or simply pander to people in their name, but actually to help stop their oppressions and save their lives.

And I hope that you remember these words a week from now, a month from now and a year from now. The

words I want you to remember are: “Animals matter.”

Animals matter, without qualification and long-winded philosophical debate. Animals matter, whether they are cute and cuddly or angry and dangerous. Animals matter, whether they are near or far, wild or domesticated, seen or unseen. Animal lives matter because life is connected and life’s ultimate importance is in that connection.

There are no heroes of Animal Liberation. Simply, there are those active in the hard work, on many different levels, and utilizing many different tactics to save Animal lives. And there is the apathetic whose sphere of moral concern ends with their family, loved ones, or own species.

When we look at the terrible injustices that the Animal Kingdoms now face under the heel of human civilization and compare it to how well these same critters thrived before our meddling, it’s obvious that we who profess to be their protectors and friends owe them an enormous debt on behalf of the billions of our kind that do not care or support their tortures with their consumerism.

Animals matter, and so does the struggle for Animal Liberation.

May every paw touch the Earth, every wing soar in the Air and every whisker wiggle with new found Freedom!

### **26 Jun - From Lynne: Disappointed but Not Devastated**

*Lynne Stewart has been denied compassionate release, but the struggle to gain her freedom is gaining momentum.*

#### **MORE:**

My Dear Friends, Supporters, Comrades:

I know we are all disappointed to the marrow of our bones and the depths of our hearts by the news that the Bureaucrats, Kafka like, have turned down my request for compassionate release.

Let me say, that we are planning ahead. The letter from the BOP (soon to be posted on the website) is flawed, to put it mildly. Both factually and medically it has major problems. We intend to go to court and raise these in front of my sentencing Judge Koeltl. At the first sentencing he responded to a query by one of the lawyers that he didn’t want me to die in prison — we’ll see if he can now live up to that. He is of course the same Judge who increased my sentence to 10 years — but this IS very different and we can only hope that we can prevail. Stay tuned for what we need from you. We will never give up.

In the meantime, once again, I grieve for my children and grandchildren who love me so much and had such great expectations of enjoying life together again in our beloved NYC and not just trying to, in the prison visiting room. My Ralph, too, whose dedication and love are only exceeded by the work he does on my behalf — but he is a born fighter and although he hurts, it all comes more naturally to him.

But for everyone else, I hope that your affront at this crass bureaucratic denial of the request which you by your signatures and letters and phone calls demanded — How far can we let this go? when a 73-year old woman who IS dying of cancer (maybe not on their timetable,) her life of good works ignored, be shunted aside ... “she does not present circumstances considered extraordinary and compelling ... at this time.” We must show them that I cannot be ignored, that YOU cannot be ignored.”

Fight On — All of Us or None of Us. An affront to one is an affront to all.

### **26 Jun - Former Earth Liberation Front spokesman files federal suit for information from FBI**

*There are a couple of recent articles about the surveillance of former Earth Liberation Front press officer Leslie*

*James Pickering, who is also a tireless supporter of political prisoners. We've included them below.*

**MORE:**

Phil Fairbanks (*The Buffalo News*)

Leslie James Pickering knows the FBI is watching him.

He wants to know how, when it will end and whether others are targeted.

Pickering, a former spokesman for the press office of the Earth Liberation Front, a radical environmental group, has filed a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Buffalo to learn the answers.

“I’m looking to find out what they’re doing to me, my family, my community and my business,” Pickering said Wednesday. “And if it will ever end.”

Pickering’s ties to the Earth Liberation Front, or ELF, are well known. He was a founder and spokesman for its press office, but he claims he was never involved in their illegal activities.

The group is best known for a series of arsons in the late 1990s and early 2000s at dozens of businesses – the timber companies, car dealerships and slaughterhouses that it believed were destroying the environment.

Pickering, who grew up in East Aurora and West Seneca and now owns Burning Books on Connecticut Street, said he quit the press office more than 10 years ago.

His goal, he said, is to end the government’s surveillance and determine if other social activists are being watched by the government.

“It’s not just me,” he said. “I’m trying to find out what the government is doing to groups involved in social change. I don’t think you should be treated as a criminal when you haven’t been involved in any criminal activity.”

The alternative weekly Artvoice has joined in the action.

The FBI declined to comment on Pickering’s suit, but in the past, the agency has described the ELF as the nation’s No. 1 domestic terror threat.

“The FBI’s policy is not to comment on anything going before the court,” said Supervisory Special Agent Gregory D. Nelsen, spokesman for the FBI office in Buffalo.

The government is not the only one that views the ELF as a threat. The Anti-Defamation League and Southern Poverty Law Center consider the group an “eco-terrorism” group responsible for at least \$30 million in property damage.

Since his departure from the group, Pickering has found himself the target of government surveillance, including FBI interviews with his associates, grand jury subpoenas for his records and the U.S. Postal Service’s monitoring of his mail.

Eager to find out what else the government may have done, his lawyers filed several Freedom of Information requests that, so far, have produced little or no information from the Postal Service and FBI.

“They came up with all kinds of ploys to avoid complying with the Freedom of Information Act,” said Buffalo attorney Michael Kuzma.

Daire B. Irwin and Joseph M. Finnerty, one of Buffalo’s premier First Amendment lawyers, are assisting Kuzma

with the lawsuit.

### **July 3<sup>rd</sup> - U.S. Postal Service Logging All Mail for Law Enforcement (*New York Times*)**

Leslie James Pickering noticed something odd in his mail last September: a handwritten card, apparently delivered by mistake, with instructions for postal workers to pay special attention to the letters and packages sent to his home.

“Show all mail to supv” — supervisor — “for copying prior to going out on the street,” read the card. It included Mr. Pickering’s name, address and the type of mail that needed to be monitored. The word “confidential” was highlighted in green.

“It was a bit of a shock to see it,” said Mr. Pickering, who with his wife owns a small bookstore in Buffalo. More than a decade ago, he was a spokesman for the Earth Liberation Front, a radical environmental group labeled eco-terrorists by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Postal officials subsequently confirmed they were indeed tracking Mr. Pickering’s mail but told him nothing else.

As the world focuses on the high-tech spying of the National Security Agency, the misplaced card offers a rare glimpse inside the seemingly low-tech but prevalent snooping of the United States Postal Service.

Mr. Pickering was targeted by a longtime surveillance system called mail covers, a forerunner of a vastly more expansive effort, the Mail Isolation Control and Tracking program, in which Postal Service computers photograph the exterior of every piece of paper mail that is processed in the United States — about 160 billion pieces last year. It is not known how long the government saves the images.

Together, the two programs show that postal mail is subject to the same kind of scrutiny that the National Security Agency has given to telephone calls and e-mail.

The mail covers program, used to monitor Mr. Pickering, is more than a century old but is still considered a powerful tool. At the request of law enforcement officials, postal workers record information from the outside of letters and parcels before they are delivered. (Opening the mail would require a warrant.) The information is sent to the law enforcement agency that asked for it. Tens of thousands of pieces of mail each year undergo this scrutiny.

The Mail Isolation Control and Tracking program was created after the anthrax attacks in late 2001 that killed five people, including two postal workers. Highly secret, it seeped into public view last month when the F.B.I. cited it in its investigation of ricin-laced letters sent to President Obama and Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. It enables the Postal Service to retrace the path of mail at the request of law enforcement. No one disputes that it is sweeping.

“In the past, mail covers were used when you had a reason to suspect someone of a crime,” said Mark D. Rasch, who started a computer crimes unit in the fraud section of the criminal division of the Justice Department and worked on several fraud cases using mail covers. “Now it seems to be, ‘Let’s record everyone’s mail so in the future we might go back and see who you were communicating with.’ Essentially you’ve added mail covers on millions of Americans.”

Bruce Schneier, a computer security expert and an author, said whether it was a postal worker taking down information or a computer taking images, the program was still an invasion of privacy.

“Basically they are doing the same thing as the other programs, collecting the information on the outside of your mail, the metadata, if you will, of names, addresses, return addresses and postmark locations, which gives the government a pretty good map of your contacts, even if they aren’t reading the contents,” he said.

But law enforcement officials said mail covers and the automatic mail tracking program are invaluable, even in

an era of smartphones and e-mail.

In a criminal complaint filed June 7 in Federal District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, the F.B.I. said a postal investigator tracing the ricin letters was able to narrow the search to Shannon Guess Richardson, an actress in New Boston, Tex., by examining information from the front and back images of 60 pieces of mail scanned immediately before and after the tainted letters sent to Mr. Obama and Mr. Bloomberg showing return addresses near her home. Ms. Richardson had originally accused her husband of mailing the letters, but investigators determined that he was at work during the time they were mailed.

In 2007, the F.B.I., the Internal Revenue Service and the local police in Charlotte, N.C., used information gleaned from the mail cover program to arrest Sallie Wamsley-Saxon and her husband, Donald, charging both with running a prostitution ring that took in \$3 million over six years. Prosecutors said it was one of the largest and most successful such operations in the country. Investigators also used mail covers to help track banking activity and other businesses the couple operated under different names.

Other agencies, including the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services, have used mail covers to track drug smugglers and Medicare fraud.

“It’s a treasure trove of information,” said James J. Wedick, a former F.B.I. agent who spent 34 years at the agency and who said he used mail covers in a number of investigations, including one that led to the prosecution of several elected officials in California on corruption charges. “Looking at just the outside of letters and other mail, I can see who you bank with, who you communicate with — all kinds of useful information that gives investigators leads that they can then follow up on with a subpoena.”

But, he said: “It can be easily abused because it’s so easy to use and you don’t have to go through a judge to get the information. You just fill out a form.”

For mail cover requests, law enforcement agencies submit a letter to the Postal Service, which can grant or deny a request without judicial review. Law enforcement officials say the Postal Service rarely denies a request. In other government surveillance programs, like wiretaps, a federal judge must sign off on the requests.

The mail cover surveillance requests are granted for about 30 days, and can be extended for up to 120 days. There are two kinds of mail covers: those related to criminal activity and those requested to protect national security. Criminal activity requests average 15,000 to 20,000 per year, said law enforcement officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they are prohibited by law from discussing them. The number of requests for antiterrorism mail covers has not been made public.

Law enforcement officials need warrants to open the mail, although President George W. Bush asserted in a signing statement in 2007 that the federal government had the authority to open mail without warrants in emergencies or in foreign intelligence cases.

Court challenges to mail covers have generally failed because judges have ruled that there is no reasonable expectation of privacy for information contained on the outside of a letter. Officials in both the Bush and Obama administrations, in fact, have used the mail-cover court rulings to justify the N.S.A.’s surveillance programs, saying the electronic monitoring amounts to the same thing as a mail cover. Congress briefly conducted hearings on mail cover programs in 1976, but has not revisited the issue.

The program has led to sporadic reports of abuse. In May 2012, Mary Rose Wilcox, a Maricopa County supervisor in Arizona, was awarded nearly \$1 million by a federal judge after winning a lawsuit against Sheriff Joe Arpaio. The sheriff, known for his immigration raids, had obtained mail covers from the Postal Service to track her mail. The judge called the investigation into Ms. Wilcox politically motivated because she had been a frequent critic of Mr. Arpaio’s, objecting to what she considered the targeting of Hispanics in his immigration sweeps. The case is being appealed.

In the mid-1970s the Church Committee, a Senate panel that documented C.I.A. abuses, faulted a program created in the 1950s in New York that used mail covers to trace and sometimes open mail going to the Soviet Union from the United States.

A suit brought in 1973 by a high school student in New Jersey, whose letter to the Socialist Workers Party was traced by the F.B.I. as part of an investigation into the group, led to a rebuke from a federal judge.

Postal officials refused to discuss either mail covers or the Mail Isolation Control and Tracking program.

Mr. Pickering says he suspects that the F.B.I. requested the mail cover to monitor his mail because a former associate said the bureau had called with questions about him. Last month, he filed a lawsuit against the Postal Service, the F.B.I. and other agencies, saying they were improperly withholding information.

A spokeswoman for the F.B.I. in Buffalo declined to comment.

Mr. Pickering said that although he was arrested two dozen times for acts of civil disobedience and convicted of a handful of misdemeanors, he was never involved in the arson attacks the Earth Liberation Front carried out. He said he became tired of focusing only on environmental activism and moved back to Buffalo to finish college, open his bookstore, Burning Books, and start a family.

“I’m no terrorist,” he said. “I’m an activist.”

Mr. Pickering has written books sympathetic to the liberation front, but he said his political views and past association should not make him the target of a federal investigation. “I’m just a guy who runs a bookstore and has a wife and a kid,” he said.

### **26 Jun - Report from NATO 3 hearing**

*There is a book drive and internet auction for the NATO 3 underway. We've included how to help as well as other updates below, including a communique from NATO 5 prisoner Migs.*

#### **MORE:**

Yesterday, Brent, Brian, and Jared appeared in court for another status hearing. We anticipated evidentiary hearings and oral arguments on the motions to dismiss charges and Brian’s motion to suppress his post-arrest statement, but these were postponed till July 9th at 2pm. Instead, the hearing focused on several discovery issues and their potential implications for the State’s prosecution.

Importantly, the defense noted recent discovery submissions of emails between the prosecution and the Chicago Field Office of the Secret Service discussing the alleged plans to attack Obama’s campaign headquarters. In one of these emails, the Secret Service states that at no time did the defendants reconnoiter the campaign headquarters and there was never a threat to this location.

The defense argued that these documents are “extremely exculpatory” and may influence upcoming motions to dismiss the charges as unconstitutional as applied to the NATO 3 (a motion to dismiss the charges as unconstitutional was filed back in January and denied in part in March, although the defense can renew the as-applied challenge before trial as more facts are put on the record for the judge to evaluate). The defense also argued that these documents could call into question the original indictment, as it is likely that there are people who had access to this information before it was issued. The judge indicated that he considered these trial issues, but the defense argued that they point to potential discovery and indictment issues and could warrant pre-trial motions in the future.

The hearing also focused on Brian’s motion to suppress his post-arrest statement. The defense argued that the statement was obtained in violation of Brian’s Miranda rights and IL state constitutional rights because he was

chained for 17 hours and denied access to counsel until his will was overcome and he was forced to give the statement. If the prosecutors want to use this statement either in their main case against Brian or to cast doubt on his credibility during cross-examination if he testifies on his own behalf, the defense will demand an evidentiary hearing to argue that the statement should not be admissible. The prosecution asserted that they currently do not plan to use the statement in their main case, although they would likely use it if Brian takes the stand. However, they want more time to review the case law and finalize their plans. The evidentiary hearing on this matter was scheduled for July 9th at 2pm.

Other discovery issues were discussed as well. The prosecution has provided the defense with First Amendment Worksheets created during the police investigation leading to these charges. These worksheets have been placed under seal. The judge asserted that he will act as “gatekeeper” of the information, determining if information will be made public and when. The prosecution also argued that they should not have to provide the defense with the cell phone numbers of the officers involved in the Field Intelligence Team that had been investigating Occupy Chicago and the defendants, and instead should be allowed to provide these call records with the numbers redacted. The defense argued that this would prevent them from determining who called whom and who was responding to each call. To resolve this issue, the judge ordered the prosecution to provide the defense with an opportunity to review these documents in the prosecutor’s office and gave the defense the option of filing a motion about this issue if this review is insufficient.

### **July 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> - Internet Auction for NATO 3**

Starting Saturday, July 6, we are having another fundraising challenge, but this time we’re going to make it a little more interesting. The top 2 donors will receive screenprinted NATO 5 solidarity posters in handmade wooden frames, all generously made and donated by Chicago supporters. The 3rd and 4th largest donors will receive NATO 5 support t-shirts, also made by Chicago supporters.

We challenge all participants to help raise at least \$1000 from this fundraising auction. No matter what amount you can offer, even the smallest amount helps us reach our goal. Show solidarity with these political prisoners and get your hands on NATO 5 support agitprop to let your friends and loved ones know where you stand when it comes to state violence and political protest against injustice.

The auction will begin Saturday, July 6th at midnight CST and end Friday, July 12th at midnight CST. We will be checking the time stamps listed for online donations. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation with our fiscal sponsor, the 8th Day Center for Justice, please email us at [nato5solidarity\(A\)gmail.com](mailto:nato5solidarity(A)gmail.com) specifying the date, time, and amount of your donation. We will announce winners of the auction one week after its closing on July 12th to allow time for mailed donations to reach our fiscal sponsor.

Full details and pictures of the framed posters and t-shirts are at <http://nato5support.wordpress.com/internet-auction-july-6-12>

### **July 1st - Open Communiqué by Migs (Mark Neiweem)**

Greetings of solidarity, comrades and friends.

I sincerely hope this communiqué finds all of you in the very best of health and highest of revolutionary spirits.

I am coming to all of you with all the love and admiration in my heart to thank you for the love, compassion, and solidarity you’ve given me since I was captured, along with 4 other comrades and brothers in struggle, in May 2012.

As most of you know by now, I eventually took a non-cooperating plea after deciding trial was not the best option for me. Though some of you may be disappointed I didn’t “prove my innocence” at trial like so many expected me to do, others were relieved to finally have some closure and an end in sight. I feel I should say why I chose what I did, for this is the first time I’ve been able to speak about this case without formal state persecution.

There is no justice or truth in the United States of America's Justice System. It's a lie. Propaganda. Laws and courts are about politics, power, and privilege, though of course the Authorities pretend otherwise. I am in political opposition to the state and clearly would never receive a fair trial even if such a thing existed in the system. I am an Anarchist and directly oppose The United States Government, its allies, institutions, armies, and courts. I perceive their very existence to be a direct and immediate threat to freedom and life.

We were targeted and arrested because of our beliefs and love of life and humanity. Though I had the best lawyers who did so much and in so many ways were just really huge emotional supports through this as well (Steve and Matt, I love you), I did not want to go to trial. They argued and fought for me to have the opportunity to be released before my trial would have even started.

I had total faith in both Steve and Matt and the NLG as a whole. However, for me trial would accomplish nothing. If I were to be found not guilty, then what? I still endured all of this time in jail, losing a year of my life already and many, many other things. All of those losses were well worth it to me to stand for Anarchism in the face of Global Capitalism's military arm. Even if I were "proven innocent," the system would never clean house or call for the lynching of the pigs, state prosecutors, Feds, warmongers, politicians – the tyrants who orchestrate political and social persecutions, who build a neoslave trade of prisons and prison labor, who send our youth off to die and kill the poor overseas for money, etc. There would be no accountability as usual.

Their decision in court means nothing to me because I will not be deterred and because I do not acknowledge them as my masters or a legitimate Authority, period. I feel, plain and simple, that I have a job to do as an Anarchist and Activist and a revolutionary. And that is to rebel, resist, and defy (as my comrade Hybachi says) against tyrants. Though many political prisoners continue from behind bars to do beautiful work and projects, to organize within these institutions – because it is not over, prison isn't the end by any means – the fact remains that we are more efficient and have access to more resources outside these walls.

I felt I had an obligation to all of you and myself to do what I needed to do, without compromising my values, to get back to fighting and pushing the best I can. That meant taking this 3-year plea so I can get out soon and get back to our collective struggle. I felt it was the best option I had and was the best for my comrades, friends, family, and myself, as well as our struggle.

Now I have to speak about what is most important to me by far. More than anything else, I want all of you to know that your support, and compassion and solidarity, throughout all of this was and is so incredible. I fail to articulate the extent of how it has truly touched me. You showed us so much solidarity I could never forget. The countless letters of support (the guards hated that) and encouragement and inspiration moved me in ways I struggle to articulate. Having all of my legal expenses paid for and the NLG standing with us. Having money raised for us to be able to buy food, hygiene supplies, stamps, etc from commissary regularly. I received regular visits from so many people.

All of these acts of solidarity continue to prove how beautiful our humanity and "the people" really are and display why we need not a State and a force to regulate and stunt our growth, to keep us from experiencing our full humanity. I was not allowed to be forgotten. I was loved and supported the entire journey, and even now in prison, I'm walking with you. Never alone.

So many of you I did not know before this, and I have made new connections with many groups and individuals. Many of these new, beautiful relationships, forged and birthed from state violence and repression, I will have for the rest of my life. I am so fortunate to be part of such a strong and amazing community and network of communities. Local and global, we've stood together.

The State uses prisons and jails to divide and alienate us, to break unity and solidarity, to divide and conquer – attack us individually, break our "individual will," and scare us collectively. As long as you do not let go of our hands and we do not let go of your hands extended in solidarity to us through the rows of razor wire, this entire

tool and tactic of imprisonment as well as their intended outcomes will fail!

Solidarity is the strongest weapon we have, and it works.

The State uses prisons to destroy our movements and crush resistance. They are tools to maintain social control and psychologically destroy the mind and will of the prisoner. The support given me has enabled me to convert all of the abuse and violence of my incarceration into more pushups in my revolutionary boot camp and not paralyzing bullets, like intended.

I, like many “political prisoners,” was targeted, beat, threatened, thrown in segregation, starved, refused medical treatment, and on and on for most of my stay to varying degrees. Now, some of the most violent, volatile, and sick individuals I’ve ever encountered (including anti-fascist struggles and maximum security inmate populations) are employed as guards at Cook County Jail. Because of your campaigns and actions, these violent fascists were ordered to no longer put their hands on me, and then refrained from doing so. They eventually turned to less aggressive (and nearly laughable in comparison) forms of harassment. Your pressure got me released early from “the hole” more than once, and in many ways my treatment and handling improved altogether.

I want all of you to know this because we learn from experience. We learn to resist more effectively. What I want to convey is: because I was given the aid I needed, I have been able to use this terrible State repression and miserable incarceration to become a much more confident, strong, and determined Anarchist and Activist. I could not have done that without you. I give you my full love and gratitude.

I would also like to extend a special thanks to the NATO 5 Defense Committee, the Anarchist Black Cross, the NLG (National Lawyers Guild), the Occupy movement, and all of the people who’ve penpalled me through it all. Thanks to those who worked so hard to raise awareness of our cases, raise money for our defenses, representation, and commissary, and share information on the tactics the State employed to entrap and railroad us, in order to prevent and counter future attacks on others by the same means.

I will never forget you as you never forgot me.

I hope to be back out, side by side with you soon enough, continuing to fight for total Liberation.

No prisoner left behind! Dot your I’s, cross your T’s, and Always circle your A’s!

Til my coffin drops and til the end of days, long live Anarchism!

### **27 Jun - Help ELF prisoner Steve Murphy as he faces release**

*Earth Liberation Front prisoner Steve Murphy gets out of prison on September 4<sup>th</sup>. Help welcome him home!*

#### **MORE:**

<http://www.simpleregistry.com/welcomehomesteve>

### **29 Jun - The G20 Five and an Interview with Guelph Anarchist Black Cross**

*Local comrades recently interviewed folks from Guelph ABC, who have been providing support for 2010 Toronto G20 prisoners, as well as the five Americans recently indicted for actions alleged to have taken place at the summit.*

#### **MORE:**

Our comrade Dane Rossman is currently locked up at Toronto West Detention Centre in Ontario, Canada [UPDATE: Dane is currently being held by immigration for a flagged passport in Buffalo, New York.]. Dane was extradited June 14th, after being held without bail since February 21st at the Central Arizona Detention Center in Florence, Arizona. Another comrade, Joel Bitar, is currently free on bail in New York, awaiting the

start of his trial in Toronto. They are both facing heavy fines and prison time for their alleged participation in breaking windows during the 2010 G20 in Toronto. They are among five Americans that Canada has sought to extradite for such offenses, along with Kevin Chianella, Quinn McCormic, and Richard Dean Morano.

While extradition for vandalism is incredibly rare, it is not entirely unheard-of. In January, a Mexican man was extradited to Houston, Texas for spray-painting “CONQUISTA” on Picasso’s *Woman in Red Armchair*. And Singapore, which drew international attention in 1994 for caning an American citizen convicted of vandalism, is currently seeking to extradite a British national for his participation in spray-painting a subway car.

The G20 Five are accused of having caused between \$700,000 to \$1,000,000 in damages. For Canadian prosecutors, these huge sums of money seem to be the main justification for this international procedure. The higher number exceeds the \$750,000 estimate reported by a glazier to the *Star*, and approaches half the \$2.5 million estimate testified by Detective Sergeant Giroux at parliamentary committee as the total losses for private and public property damage and lost wages.

Bitar alone, facing 26 counts of mischief, is accused of damaging at least \$375,000 worth of property—all related to an alleged pickaxe assault on the windows of a Canadian Imperial bank building that took “less than 30 seconds to commit,” according to Detective Giroux. Chianella is being charged with a comparably high amount in damages. As far as G20 vandals go, Giroux says, “the two Americans [Bitar and Chianella] are at the top of the list.” Rossman might appear much further down Giroux’s “list.” He faces only three counts, and an estimated \$10,000-\$15,000 in damages.

The American suspects were targeted based on investigations that involved compiling private surveillance, citizen and journalist footage from the riots, the monitoring of the suspects’ social networks, and the implementation of new facial recognition software donated by the Canadian Banker’s Association. Although all of the suspects were well-masked, the prosecution will attempt to match particulars in their clothing to later, unmasked images of the protesters. To date, the use of this sort of evidence has convinced Canadian juries most of the time, but some have been found innocent.

Aside from the property destruction, Giroux stresses that the broken windows could have injured Canadian citizens. Joel Bitar’s support committee released a statement that responds to this claim, saying: “Governments claim that property damage somehow endangers the lives of citizens, all the while their police and military forces brutalize and kill people at home and abroad that they deem undesirable—non-citizens.”

The vast majority of those injured during the G20, for instance, were protesters who were inhumanely treated, beaten, and verbally humiliated following the mass arrests which occurred during the summit. In May of last year several senior police commanders were charged for a variety of offenses regarding their conduct during the G20. 28 other officers were charged as well. Ironically, the Toronto Police Union attempted to have these charges thrown out due to “lengthy delays.”

After the mayhem, many in the reputedly nice city of Toronto questioned if the troublemakers could really be Canadian. The riots in Vancouver against the Olympics in February 2010, and again following the Canucks’ Stanley Cup loss in June 2011, as well as 2012’s several-month long student unrest in Quebec seem to answer that question. Nonetheless, Giroux seems to be playing close to that narrative, saying the Americans were “the worst of the worst. They came with a specific purpose in mind. We’ve never seen anything like that here.”

While the events in Vancouver and Montreal may have slipped Giroux’s mind, the Canadian State is no less paranoid of its population than the U.S. is of theirs. With their monitoring and prosecution of G20 protesters, the mass arrests during the summit, the ongoing surveillance of First Nations activists, with Bill 78 enacted to suppress last year’s student protests in Quebec, and the recent enactment of an anti-mask law that could put protesters in prison for 10 years, we’re reminded of a trend similar to the United States’ coordinated suppression during the Occupy Wall Street movement.

Once in custody, Rossman, for example, was interrogated by the FBI about his political affiliations in New York and Florida. Bitar was likewise questioned by Homeland Security before a flight last year. Giroux confirmed he had worked closely with the FBI in monitoring and apprehending the suspects.

###

The following is an interview with Guelph Anarchist Black Cross conducted in March, 2013. Guelph ABC has been one of the most active groups in supporting those facing state repression since the 2010 anti-G20 protests in Toronto.

**Do you believe the investigations into the property damage during the G20 are political in nature? How so?**

Every investigation the police do is political – the police are one of the most powerful political institutions in Canada, and what they choose to prioritize can be quite revealing. Pursuing these investigations on property damage is an attempt to reduce a broad-based and courageous mobilization against the global financial system and the capitalist, colonial Canadian state to a question of criminality. It is in the same vein as the aggressive police fear-mongering before the G20, where the police and mainstream media attempted to pressure our movements into denouncing so-called violence. By seeking to frame some acts of resistance as non-political and criminal in nature, and holding up permitted, self-policing demonstrations as ideals, the state seeks to pacify and divide those who oppose them.

**Do you know how much damage they're claiming occurred during the G20? The sources I've found point to something between \$750,000 and @2 million, but the Americans are being charged with over a million in damages alone. Do you know how much in damages have Canadians been convicted of? And do you have any theories on why these numbers don't add up?**

Monetizing the property damage at the G20 goes alongside the policing efforts as a way of reducing a mass mobilization to a question of criminality, hiding its political dimensions. One could come up with a value of how much a sit-in at a corporate office costs in terms of productivity, but this is often not done because those actions are not criminalized in the same way. And all of it would still be a fraction of the value lost due to sitting in Toronto's gridlock traffic or syphoned off the top by corporate leaders, whether legally or not. To me, the talk of dollars worth of damage is just nonsense – the numbers change because it is rhetorically convenient for them to change.

**What sort of effect has the G20 task force investigation had on dissent in Canada?**

Obviously the intent was to create fear, and to use this fear to pacify as much of the movement as they could, before using naked force to crush those who refused to be pacified. But I would say the largest legacy of the G20 is a huge de-legitimation of the police, especially of their ability to be politically neutral in protest scenarios. Even if people fear the violence of the police, it is easier to be brave in the face of an enemy who is revealed to be tyrannical and illegitimate, because we are not tempted to believe the story they craft about 'peaceful protest' and the rule of law.

That said, I think the nature of the G20 Joint Intelligence Group's policing strategy is not well known, especially for the huge wave of new activists who became politicized within the mass movements of Occupy and Idle No More. I believe it's important to spread word of the JIG's tactics widely, not to encourage fear, but to transform fear to caution with accurate information. When we understand the lengths the state is willing to go to break our movements, then we are able to anticipate and prepare for the kinds of repression we are likely to face, thus robbing it of its sting.

**Why do you think it is so important for Toronto police to extradite Americans in this case?**

The most unprecedented aspect of the Toronto G20 was the size of the policing budget. The police seem painfully aware that they came out of the G20 looking like the bad guys, and they have had very limited success in prosecuting their scapegoats. It seems that they held onto these extraditions for so long before moving on them so they could see if they would need additional convictions to justify their budget. Because in the world of bureaucracy, it is a massive failure for a budget to contract, because that means cops losing their jobs.

### **Are Canadian activists doing anything to support the 5 Americans who have been/are facing extradition?**

Radicals north of the colonial border have been making contact with the folks being extradited to build friendship and offer support through an experience that many of us are now unfortunately very familiar with. In addition to supporting these specific people through a difficult time, it is also an opportunity to strengthen our movements by making new friends in other parts of the continent, so that far from being broken, we can emerge from this new round of repression stronger.

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Support Dane Rossman: <http://supportdanerossman.blogspot.com>

Support Joel Bitar: <http://supportjoel.com>

Guelph ABC: <http://guelphabc.noblogs.org>

### **29 Jun - Masculine men and "outside speculators" by CeCe McDonald**

*We've included the latest, complete with quote of the month, by CeCe McDonald.*

#### **MORE:**

After having a conversation with a close friend of mine about masculine men and their identities as individuals and their involvement with feminine gay men and/or (trans) women, I figured I'd use this for a topic for this post.

It all started when the subject of my male friends came up, which included someone I've been involved with for three years. I was explaining each of my involvement with each guy and how they all differed. But the common factor with them was how secure each of them were with me with their identities as masculine men being questioned by "outside speculators," and how that affects the relationships I have with them. For all of them it varied with different results, and I can say that a man's masculinity is very important to them and that their relationships with others does indeed affect their masculine identities apart from their individuality.

So the underlying question here is, why do masculine men get so caught up in the opinions and ideas of others? And not saying that all (masculine) men are like that, but majority are. I can say that there has only been one (very) masculine man that has not let others' ideas affect our friendship, and that has actually made us grow closer and now I can say he is one of my closest friends. Anyways... I would figure that a (masculine) man's dominance and assertiveness would put him in a position to hold his ground, that as the "man," he should (or would) use his masculine authority to show his right to be involved with whoever he pleases. Right?...

My idea is that when a man's ego and reputation are at stake, they fold into the pressures of society's idea of what masculine/ity is. For me, it comes off as if femininity, homosexuality, or transgenderism is contagious and that the man's masculinity is jeopardized with the association of the fem-man and/or (trans)woman. But that's not at all the case. A masculine man should never get hung up on whether his identity as an individual is questioned by others, because no one's individuality could never be taken away by another person. You are who you are, regardless of who you associate with. I figured that was the contributing factor that causes my relationships to fail. And I'm sure I'm not the only one who can attest to that.

Also, I can say that the stereotypes and stigmas attached to fem-men and (trans)women are also a factor in the relationships between us and the (masculine) men. I would always think that the men I dated were ashamed of

being with me when in reality they're ashamed of themselves. Their own insecurities, unassurances, and pressures cause them to fall into society's conformative gender identities and roles, but in reality who ANYONE associates with does NOT add or take away from who we are as individuals. It's all what we make it and how we view ourselves.

Well, I just wanted to give you guys something to think about. It's been something that's been on my mind for a while. That, and the fact that I won't be able to travel to Pittsburgh, PA to visit "S/he is Her/e" at the Warhol Museum, based on legendary performance artist Genesis Breyer P-Orridge—it starts June 15th. If you have an opportunity, go check it out and learn about our history's "pandrogyny." Also, before I go, I want to leave you guys with the quote of the month:

"Learn from yesterday; live for today; hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning."

—Albert Einstein

### **29 Jun - Update and writings by Mumia Abu Jamal**

*Just days after Mumia's appeal argument challenging the state's secret sentencing of him to life imprisonment without parole, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections cut-off Mumia's phone calls for two weeks. We're including information on the campaign to make this public as well as his latest writings.*

#### **MORE:**

On Friday, June 28, 2013, Mumia Abu-Jamal, my younger brother, was disciplined by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC) for calling in an interview to attorney Michael Coard and his Philadelphia Radio Show, "Courtroom Radio" (900 AM WURD). His punishment—15 days loss of phone privileges. This was just days after the appeal argument challenging Mumia's sentence to life imprisonment without parole, which was imposed in a "secret sentencing," without notice to him and depriving him of the ability to challenge this sentence to "slow death row".

This was the first time in over 15 years that Mumia was cited for a prison infraction. The last time was in 1995 when the state of PA tried to stop him from publishing his first full-length book, *Live from Death Row*. In 1998, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals found the DOC in violation of Mumia's First Amendment right of freedom of speech. Since then he has published seven books and recorded thousands of commentaries for radio.

The authorities are trying to stop Mumia from reaching out to those in Philadelphia. They are also depriving him of contact visits with his eldest son, Jamal Hart.

We cannot let Mumia be silenced – even for one day. We will not tolerate Mumia being harassed. We need to fight back so that Mumia's voice stays in the public and he continues contact with his family.

To date the PA Department of Corrections has not responded to the demands of his attorney, Rachel Wolkenstein, to reinstate his phone privileges and grant immediate contact visitation with his son, Jamal Hart.

Mumia sent the following message from prison:

"Isn't it ironic that I got my first write-up for writing (literally, *Live From Death Row*), and my next one for speaking?

Both were for communicating--for getting in touch with the People.

If you believed that the government really believes in freedom of speech, this should disabuse you of that notion.

When you are punished for speech, there is no freedom.

After *Live from Death Row*, I kept on writing. I bet you, I'll keep on speaking."

From imprisoned nation,

Mumia Abu-Jamal

Today marks the thirty-first anniversary of the outrageous, false conviction and death-sentence of Mumia Abu-Jamal. He must be freed now!

Write, call, email and fax the central offices of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections:

John E. Wetzel, Secretary, PA Department of Corrections, 1920 Technology Pkwy, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Phone: (717) 728-2573

Fax: (717) 728-0312

Email: ra-contactdoc@pa.gov

Demand: "Stop the Harassment of Mumia Abu-Jamal. Reinstatement of Mumia's phone privileges. Grant contact visitation to Mumia's son, Jamal Hart."

### **June 14th - Amie Césaire: Remembered**

The name Amie Césaire still rings in the Black world, for the power of his works still resonate with relevance.

In 1955, this son of Martinique published his Discourse on Colonialism a work as bold as it was brief, put out by the celebrated publishing house, Presence Africaine, headed by Alioune Diop.

Still relevant? Monthly Review Press republished it in 2000, and in 2007, scholar Vijay Prashad quoted liberally from it in his work The Darker Nations: A People's History of the Third World, to show how potent was this anti-colonial period.

Prashad writes:

In the opening pages of Discourse, Césaire writes, "Europe is indefensible." "From the depths of slavery," millions of people "set themselves up as judges." The colonizer continues to brutalize the people in Vietnam, Madagascar, West Africa, the West Indies, and elsewhere, but the colonized now have the advantage. "They know their temporary 'masters' are lying. Therefore, that their masters are weak" [pp.3-4]

### **June 17th - 'Traitor-Hatin!': E. Snowden**

The former CIA/NSA employee, Edward Snowden, is now inside the whirling, cutting blades of the buzz saw: the media.

According to most media accounts he's, at best, a nut: and at worst, a traitor.

In a playbook that shines best in wartime, the favored attack of the media is upon the target's sanity. Now, Edward Snowden joins Kim Jong-Il, Saddam Hussein and Muammar Qaddafi, as, if not totally mad, at least he's not all there.

I'm always amazed when they employ this tactic, one of the faves of the corporate/imperial press.

If one dares challenge the empire, well! – they're mad!

(If I see another clip of his girlfriend, I'll hurl)

Meanwhile, no serious examination – nor real challenge – to his essential charges – the fantastic scope of U.S. intelligence agencies, but perhaps more foreboding, the sheer power of private contractors – like Booz Allen Hamilton – where Snowden, until recent days, worked.

One of the primary underlying features of the Iraq War and its support services was the sheer explosion of contractors working for a plethora of private corporations.

The Iraq War may've been bad for the country's image and prestige, but it was a gold mine for businesses.

The same could be said for Snowden's former employer, Booz Allen, one of the leading employers of ex-CIA and NSA personnel, who can live like princes on private money generated by huge government contracts.

If Americans really listen to this young man, and begin to look deeply into this national security industry, perhaps that'll change.

But I ain't holdin' my breath.

### **June 21st - Join Ralph's Fight (For His Wife's Life!)**

Ralph Pointer, the husband of lawyer – and now federal prisoner, Lynne Stewart, is on a mission.'

To save the life of his wife.

His wife, Lynne, was an almost legendary lawyer, who brought her whole heart and all of her legal training, to the defense of the down pressed, and to many movements for social justice of the '70's, '80's and beyond.

Recently convicted of violating some post – 9/11 Special Administrative Measures (called SAMs), in defense of her client, the blind sheikh, Omar Abdel-Rahman, she was given 18 months in prison, and after appeal, it was upped to 10 years! This for a 'rule' that expressly violates the 1st, 5th and 6th Amendments, violating the rights of both clients and lawyers!

Here's the rub – Lynne is 73 years old, with advanced breast cancer. Such a sentence is tantamount to a death sentence.

Ralph, quite understandably, is doing whatever he can to bring his wife home, where, around family and loved ones, she can receive a more efficacious course of treatment. It almost goes without saying that prison medical care is among the worst.

Ralph is protesting in the capital, in Washington, DC, these days, to try and effect her compassionate release.

They've won statements of support from the former Archbishop and human rights activist, Desmond Tutu – and civil rights activist (and former comedian . and 1968 presidential candidate, Dick Gregory. Indeed, Gregory started a liquid fast in mid-April to protest Stewart's continued caging.

Join Ralph Pointer, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and Dick Gregory in bringing Lynne back home –alive!

### **June 23rd - Flight From Babylon**

Not since the late Phillip Agee (he of former CIA whistleblower fame), have we seen the likes of the case of Edward Snowden, who formerly worked for the CIA, NSA and the private contractor, Booz Allen Hamilton.

Agee's 1975 book, Inside the Company: CIA Diary (New York), blew the doors off the CIA, and revealed to many the malevolent nature of U.S. intelligence.

But, in this new, plugged-in generation, books are of little importance. Snowden, using social media, has been able to interface with millions. His agility with the internet has sent the Obama Administration into fits.

Now, Edward Snowden is running for his freedom; and perhaps, his very life.

As of this writing, there's much speculation about his final destination, and little certainty, except he's trying to outrun the world's leader in the Imprisonment Industry: the U.S.

Recently charged with espionage (a fancy word meaning spying). If caught, and caged, he faces a possible death sentence.

There should be no question as to why he took to the skies. For even if he were to escape the gallows, he might face what Bradley Manning faced: torture, and perhaps, a life sentence.

Against these potentialities, life, in freedom, away from home, seems attractive.

### **July 2nd - Why DOMA Was Unconstitutional**

It made history, surely, when the US Supreme Court struck down, on equal protection grounds, the Defense of Marriage Act of 1996. It found that the section of the law which prohibited federal benefits to gay and lesbian couples, married in states where such unions were legal violated the Constitution.

While the decision was typical for Justice Anthony Kennedy, who is given to florid prose and grand gestures, and also one who has assumed the role of the Court's coveted swing vote its very narrowness may make it short-lived.

But, as in any small group (and the Supreme Court is ultimately a group of nine people), conflicts arise among personalities as well as political ideologies.

While equal protection has historical and heart-string appeal, DOMA could've been resolved on other grounds that might've achieved more unity on the Court. That principle was important in the historic *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) case, condemning school segregation under the late chief justice, Earl Warren.

In the original Constitution, Art. IV is set the "Full Faith and Credit" clause, which directs states to respect the laws, court rulings and legislation of other states.

Even an avowed originalist like Antonin Scalia would be hard-pressed to deny clear language of this clause, and conceivably – conceivable – if Justice Scalia were intellectually honest – the logic of Article IV would compel all of DOMA to be reversed.

If that were the reasoning of the Court, their decision may've been 8 -1 (given Justice Thomas' deep intransigence), instead of 5 – 4, and thus, on stronger, more sustainable constitutional ground. It also is a lesson on the nature of our political class; a Congress that passes, and a President (Bill Clinton) – a constitutional law professor, no less! – that signs a law so obviously unconstitutional.

What does that say of such a system, except that it's broken?

Finally, marriage needs no defense; and the best defense is good jobs, and good schools. But that's too much for Congress to concern itself with.

### **29 Jun - Support Krow and all who defend the Penokees!**

*As the climate changes and the state and capital collude to extract everything they can from a planet that isn't dying, but is being killed, it's no surprise when they use their police forces to target those who stand against them. An activist in Wisconsin is facing such repression and we've included both a statement by her support crew and one from Krow herself.*

**MORE:**

Katie Kloth, aka Krow, is an activist, artist, forager, sustainable farmer, and biologist who has been committed to struggles to protect the environment and liberate all life for many years, and has spent the last several years organizing against the proposed Penokee mine.

“On June 11th, 2013, she was cited by the Iron County Sherriff for theft due to her alleged involvement in a rowdy protest earlier that day that disrupted bore hole drilling on the Penokee Range. Since it was considered such a minor crime, she was neither arrested nor detained that day.

“On June 21st, it was announced that the Iron County District Attorney increased the charges to robbery with use of force (a class E felony), two counts of criminal damage to property and one charge of theft of movable property (<=\$2500).

“It is apparent that the prosecutor gave into outside political pressure and that the charges were trumped up. The state legislature and powerful mining corporations seek to make an example out of anyone who dares to step out of line.

“As one prisoner support group states: ‘When those in power are challenged, they inevitably turn to violent repression and imprisonment to maintain their interests. In order to avoid defeat, movements must become organized and capable of combating the repression of the state apparatus, and they must be able to support their comrades and allies in the event that they are arrested or imprisoned. Few would commit themselves to a movement that would leave them behind prison walls, or a movement that is incapable of sustaining itself in the face of state intimidation.’

“We must support Krow and all those that suffer from state repression for protecting the water! ‘No mine’ means supporting those that defend the land!”

The WePay page for the bail/legal fund can be found at <https://www.wepay.com/donations/penokee-defenders-fund>

**June 30th - Statement from Krow**

Those who fight against the destruction of the water, land, plants, and human and non-human animals of the Penokee Hills and Bad River Watershed are not ‘terrorists.’ The only terrorists are those who plot to blow up the hills with ammonium nitrate and use the power of the state’s policing apparatus to repress and send fear and division through the communities that oppose them. Gogebic Taconite (GTAC) and Chris Cline have millions of dollars and the support of the state to destroy the Penokees.

In these struggles, the police are never ‘on our side,’ because they are NOT employed to enforce what is “moral” or “right” by a utilitarian standard, they are only employed to enforce the law. The law is determined by those who have enough money to buy the legislature. The police protect the people with the most money and if individual officers decide otherwise, they will likely lose their job. Because they are “just doing their job” we must understand that they will always be here to protect GTAC, not us.

With the help of the media, GTAC is trying to tear apart the movement of those who want to save the Hills and protect the water, but we must strive to stay united, keep criticisms of tactics internal to “the movement” and keep the wider focus on those that want to destroy the precious water, not those that are fighting to defend it. We must support each other, hold G-TAC accountable for their egregious acts against our mother Earth. Earth is our home and we must act to defend it. Regardless of the diversity of tactics that will be used, we need to show solidarity with all who strive to stop the Penokee mine, and focus on just that, stopping the Penokee mine.

**1 Jul - Inside/Out Book of the Month: The Half-Made World by Felix Gilman**

*Inside/Out is a book club for anarchist prisoners and their supporters. Each month, we send a book for free to*

*anarchist prisoners and encourage folks on the outside to read it too. Everyone sends their responses to us by letter or email and we give the prisoners' letters to supporters and vice-versa.*

**MORE:**

Profits from the sale of this book will go to send free copies of the book to anarchist prisoners. The Kindle version is available as well.

The award-winning *Half-Made World* by Felix Gilman is an epic, genre-blurring novel. And it is July 2013's Inside/Out book club selection.

The world is still only half-made. Between the wild shores of uncreation, and the ancient lands of the East lies the vast expanse of the West---young, chaotic, magnificent, war-torn.

Thirty years ago, the Red Republic fought to remake the West---fought gloriously, and failed. The world that now exists has been carved out amid a war between two rival factions: the Line, enslaving the world with industry, and the Gun, a cult of terror and violence. The Republic is now history, and the last of its generals sits forgotten and nameless in a madhouse on the edge of creation. But locked in his memories is a secret that could change the West forever, and the world's warring powers would do anything to take it from him.

Now Liv Alverhuysen, a doctor of the new science of psychology, travels west, hoping to heal the general's shattered mind. John Creedmoor, reluctant Agent of the Gun and would-be gentleman of leisure, travels west, too, looking to steal the secret or die trying. And the servants of the Line are on the march. All the while the First-Folk are engaged in their own mysterious agendas that threaten to upset everyone's plans.

Publishers Weekly said of *The Half-Made World* that "the lyrical descriptions of the harsh, dramatic, and mystical frontier compel the reader onward." Eric Van Lustbader calls it "the love child of McCarthy's *The Road* and Le Guin's *The Dispossessed*." Ursula herself describes Gilman's novel as "'Vivid and accurate prose, a gripping, imaginative story, a terrifically inventive setting, a hard-bitten, indestructible hero, and an intelligent, fully adult heroine."

<http://www.combustionbooks.org/products-page/fiction/insideout-book-of-the-month>

## **2 Jul - Obama Visits Mandela's Old Cell, But Won't Free His Own Political Prisoners**

*Our next letter-writing dinner will focus on the remaining U.S. political prisoners from the United Freedom Front-- a white anti-imperialist formation that, among other things, targeted government and military buildings in protest of the United States collusion with South Africa under its apartheid regime.*

**MORE:**

Glen Ford (*Black Agenda Report*)

*"Obama has no sympathy, however, for political prisoners of any race in his own country."*

President Barack Obama, a man of infinite cynicism, made a great show of going on pilgrimage to Nelson Mandela's old prison cell [5] on Robben Island, where the future first Black president of South Africa spent 18 of his 27 years of incarceration. With his wife and daughters in tow, Obama said he was "humbled to stand where men of such courage faced down injustice and refused to yield.... No shackles or cells can match the strength of the human spirit," said the chief executive of the unchallenged superpower of mass incarceration, a nation whose population comprises only 5 percent of humanity, but is home to fully one-quarter of the Earth's prison inmates.

True sociopaths, like the commander-in-chief who updates his Kill List [6] every Tuesday, have no sense of shame, much less irony. Obama feigns awe at Mandela's suffering and sacrifice in the prisons of apartheid South Africa, yet presides over a regime that, on any given day, holds 80,000 inmates in the excruciating torture of solitary confinement. During Nelson Mandela's nearly three decades of imprisonment by the white regime, he

spent a total of only about one week [7] in solitary confinement. The rest of the time, despite often harsh treatment, backbreaking labor, and unhealthy conditions, Mandela and other political prisoners at Robben Island and other South African jails were typically housed together. Indeed, Mandela and his incarcerated comrades called the prisons their “university,” where they taught each other to become the future authorities over their jailers.

*“A social death alien to the human species.”*

Racist South Africa’s treatment of Mandela and his co-revolutionists was downright benign and enlightened, compared to fate of U.S. prisoners who are deemed a threat to the prevailing order. At U.S. high security facilities, the slightest evidence that an inmate is of a political bent of mind is cause for him to be condemned to a solitary existence for decades – a social death alien to the human species. At California’s Pelican Bay and the state prison at Corcoran, thousands of inmates are held in isolation, 80 of them for more than 20 years, the very definition of barbarism. Yet, Obama journeys across oceans and continents to stand for a photo op in the cell of a prisoner whose ordeal was nowhere near as horrific as the standard fare for political prisoners in his own country.

On his trip to South Africa, Obama proclaimed that “the world is grateful for the heroes of Robben Island.” And, that’s certainly true, although it was a U.S. intelligence agent who lured Nelson Mandela into a trap in 1962 that ultimately led to his capture and imprisonment. Obama has no sympathy, however, for political prisoners of any race in his own country. Former Black Panther Herman Wallace [8] is thought to be the longest-serving prisoner in solitary confinement in the United States, having spent 40 years alone in a cell in Louisiana’s notorious Angola Prison. Obama could free him at any time, but of course, he won’t. He could emancipate Black Panther captive Russell Maroon Shoatz [9], who has spent nearly 30 years in solitary, or Republic of New Africa political prisoner Mutulu Shakur [10] or any and all of the scores of other aging political prisoners – people whose dedication to human freedom is no less than Mandela’s, yet have been subjected to far worse treatment at American hands. Instead, Obama has doubled the bounty on Shakur’s comrade and sister, Assata [11], in exile in Cuba. She might even be on Obama’s Kill List – which is the real and authentic legacy of this country’s First Black President.

### **3 Jul - Seattle FBI now targeting climate activists**

*In the 48 hours around July 3<sup>rd</sup>, at least six Seattle climate activists have been approached by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at their home or school. In light of recent revelations about the extent of state surveillance by federal agencies we feel it is important to share this information with the broader activist community in Seattle and nationwide.*

### **5 Jul - Open Letter from Robert Seth Hayes Legal Fundraising**

*Seth is in need of some funds to secure proper representation as he battles an appeal that could see him walk out of prison.*

#### **MORE:**

Greetings Gentle Folk, Supporters, Workers, Interested Individuals, Elders, Young Ones, and All People Struggling.

This is my 39th Year of incarceration and it even gives me pause when I think about because it turns towards the obvious question, WHY?

By law and legal application, there is no answer for why. But if we pondered about hidden motivations or descent into the mire that distinguishes itself as human value and concerns, then the answer is quite clear. But in any case, ours is the desire to educate and be educated through enlightenment. A means, a way, to seize the time and force real consideration towards my release.

The law in the beginning, said, "you will serve a minimum of 25 years of incarceration with the maximum term

of life if it is so deemed that criminal activities remain an aspect of your incarceration."

Well, I have records dating from 1998, the first time I came up for parole. These documents stated that "you have an exemplary incarceration record of work and program completions. As well as a strong, complimentary discipline history. However. Due to the serious nature of your crime, release is not recommended at this time."

Thereafter, from the year 2000 to 2012 I have been remanded, denied release, each and every time I appeared in spite of my continued accomplishments of program and outside accredited achievements. The statement of "exemplary and distinguished good discipline" resound though out each and every one of my parole appearances.

#### WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

It is for us to distinguish when and where officials deviate from guidelines and implement their own personal agendas. The authority they are claiming in keeping me incarcerated was never granted to them, but belongs to the Courts, Judges and Legislators. It is not the Parole Board's to appropriate.

Next we should ask ourselves. If it were so blatantly obvious that they are doing this to you Seth, what are the chances it might occur to someone close to me? A loved one, a friend, or a friend of a friend. Shouldn't we all come under the dictates of the law as equal representatives of society?

If you are in agreement, lend a hand. Donate a small portion of your earnings that we might take the fight to the courts loud and clear. We are a society of workers, parents, students, and teachers. Members of communities in need of honest laborers and socially conscious members. Let us say NO to those who would usurp and take possession without legal claim or authority of your God-given rights.

Stand up, stand firm and lets correct a continued case of criminal activities within the state. We do not surrender our rights to be heard, seen and understood. We must come together and struggle for what is right. Prisoners who have done their time should be released so that they can go home to their families and contribute to making this world a better place.

RESPECTS!

#### **6 Jul - Updates and writings by Russell Maroon Shoatz**

*On the eve of the possible release from solitary confinement of long-held Black Panther political prisoner Russell Maroon Shoatz, calls supporting this action have been coming from around the globe. We're writing to Maroon tonight and are including the latest updates below.*

#### **MORE:**

Nobel peace laureate and former President of East Timor Jose Ramos Horta just added his name to the Campaign, noting the "absolutely crucial leadership role" played by political prisoners in his own nation's successful struggle for independence.

Campaign to Free Russell Maroon Shoatz co-coordinator Matt Meyer, in a video release from Palesintine coordinated with Addameer (the Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association representing that country's diverse grouping of 5000 political prisoners), noted that the case of Maroon is being seen across the globe as one of the most heinous acts of judicial neglect in contemporary human rights history. "Though we are heartened and encouraged by the recent news from SCI Mahanoy where Maroon is being held," noted Meyer – referencing information that a favorable recommendation for release from solitary was on the desk of PA DOC Secretary John Wetzel, "we also understand that there can be no celebration until the moment Maroon enters general population. Basic international legal standards and US constitutional requirements suggest that he should never have spent a week in solitary, much less the unimaginable 22 years of consecutive torture he has been forced to withstand. Even one more week in solitary is too long."

In a visit to Ramallah, Meyer met with Addameer director Sahar Francis, who affirmed the significance of Maroon's case. In a joint video statement, Francis and Meyer affirmed the importance for all human rights advocates to focus on the release of all political prisoners everywhere. Noting the world's prayers for Nelson Mandela, one of history's most famous political prisoners, they suggested that now was a significant moment to link movements and work together. In the Afterword to the recently-released PM Press collection of Maroon's essays, South African former Member of Parliament Nozizwe Madlala Routledge quoted Mandela's call that "a nation should not be judged based upon how it treats its highest citizens, but on how it treats its prisoners." As knowledge of Maroon's case and support for an end to the torture spreads across Africa, the Middle East, Asia/Pacific, Latin America and Europe, a dramatic spotlight is focusing on how Pennsylvania treats those behind bars.

### **July 7th - The Black Jacobins, Education and Redemption**

The ruling elites of societies use prisons both to punish those they label as law-breakers and at the same time to terrorize those "free" members of society they hold sway over. In these hellholes boredom and "nothingness" grips one, as you watch your life drift away.

To reverse that, early on during my decades in prison, I helped establish seminars where, prior to preparing and subsequently bringing their work to the floor, prisoners would choose the subjects to be presented. And we demanded excellence, even though many of the participants had very little formal education. That research and study served to defeat our captors' objectives.

As the moderator of many of these sessions I was expected also to be fully prepared—and I always tried to live up to those expectations.

One seminar developed into a lively debate as to who did we believe should be considered the most impressive historical individual of African descent (seeing how the seminars were almost always made up of African-American prisoners). Even so, by that time many of the participants had read so deeply and so widely until I believe they could have received degrees in various fields.

Thus the prisoners vied for a chance to present their choices, while being allowed a brief biographical sketch, which was followed by a Q&A session. We heard of Queen Hatshepsut of ancient Egypt, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana and Julius Nyerere of Tanzania as well as Shaka of the Zulu's, and so it went. We were in no rush, only having to periodically break for meals and other prison routines.

As moderator, and by then respected for my learning, I was looked to as the party who would guide the session to a satisfactory decision. Personally I was leaning towards the Shaka choice. Pontificating like a judge delivering a decision in a court of law, I summarized all the arguments I had kept notes on. Then I went on to highlight "why" Shaka of the Zulu's was "obviously" the best choice. And while those hardened prisoners respectfully awaited what was by then clearly gonna be my judgment of Shaka as the most qualified individual, a low voice eight cells away interrupted by saying he had listened to everything, but with all due respect, we were all on the wrong wave-length. It was Moukie, a smallish, 30-something prisoner, who was also respected as a "thinker."

By that point I couldn't imagine that my judgment could be swayed, and to reinforce my coming decision I stopped Moukie in order to add a few finishing touches to my paean-like comments on Shaka.

When I finished, Moukie, in a quiet voice, one that forced the prisoners to strain to hear, said we all should recognize that Toussaint Louverture was clearly the most impressive individual of African descent. Dead silence followed...

I was stunned! We "were on the wrong wave-length!" By failing to consider individuals outside of the African continent, we had seriously erred. Moreover, I instantly knew Moukie's choice was right. And by their continuing silence—no Q&A followed—it was clear that the other prisoners did also.

How could all of these otherwise opinionated prisoners be so quickly turned around? Because we had all read C.L.R. James's *The Black Jacobin*. In fact, it was so popular there until we could never keep copies on the cell block.

Prisoners would go to lengths to engineer ways to have borrowed copies packed with their other personal possessions when they were being transferred to other cell blocks. They would then swear to either return the book, or have a new copy mailed to the owner. Everybody loved that book!

Even so, that book often caused prisoners to fly into rages. Simply because James's portrayal of pre and revolutionary Haiti can only be described as searing. The prisoners could vividly imagine the suffering their African ancestors had endured; although I've known white prisoners who were also deeply moved by that book—my comrade Nuno Pontes for instance, who was a Portuguese national.

The other side of the coin was the ability of *The Black Jacobins* to almost instantly begin to effect a change in the most anti-social prisoners; causing them to become hungry to learn what else remained hidden from them. Thus *The Black Jacobins* was one of our best educational and organizing tools.

So there I was, stunned and wordless. And like a judge who has to reverse a decision, my mind was furiously working to formulate a face-saving response, and all the time Moukie did not offer a word to bolster his Toussaint choice, although I have to imagine he felt satisfaction in having bested all of us in that protracted debate.

Bowing to the inevitable, I swallowed my pride and announced my judgment that Moukie had been right, then opened the floor to objections to which there remained only silence.

Consequently, we moved on to another seminar subject.

Here I need to say that the late C.L.R. James was loved by those prisoners for writing that book. Afterwards, his other writings and work were also highly respected, and also valued.

To those not in prison, if you want to help orient and educate those prisoners who will be returning to your communities I urge you to find a way to send copies of *The Black Jacobins* to them. That book is capable of speaking to all those of African descent or otherwise, who find themselves on the bottom rungs of society.

### **July 8th - PA DOC Secretary Wetzel is set to make decision on releasing Maroon from solitary confinement**

Campaign and Maroon himself learns that PA DOC Secretary Wetzel is set to make final decision on POSSIBLE RELEASE FROM SOLITARY CONFINEMENT; DEMAND an end to Maroon's decades of torture and call for his immediate release to general population!

July 8: On July 3, long-held Black Panther political prisoner Russell Maroon Shoatz was informed by prison officials at State Correctional Institution (SCI) Mahanoy that SCI Mahanoy has formally recommended that Pennsylvania Department of Corrections Secretary, John Wetzel, authorize Maroon's release from solitary confinement. Only 90 days after his transfer to a lower-security prison, and two months after a federal lawsuit was filed on his behalf, Secretary Wetzel is set to make the final decision any day now as to whether Maroon's 22 consecutive years in solitary confinement are to come to an end.

On the eve of the possible release from solitary confinement calls supporting this action have been coming from around the globe. Nobel peace laureate and former President of East Timor Jose Ramos Horta just added his name to the Campaign, noting the "absolutely crucial leadership role" played by political prisoners in his own nation's successful struggle for independence.

Maroon provided the following statement to supporters: "I saw the leadership of SCI Mahanoy, and they gave me a green light to be released from isolation after 22 years. But now the Central Office staff is holding up traffic, and I'm calling on you all to remove that final roadblock."

The Campaign is encouraged by the positive actions helping move this process forward, and taken by officials at SCI Mahanoy and the offices of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections; we hope and expect that Secretary Wetzel will do the right thing, and end these decades of gross injustice. We recognize, however, that until the moment that Maroon is out of solitary, we must keep the pressure building as we strengthen the movement against solitary confinement and to free Maroon Shoatz!

The Campaign to Free Russell Maroon Shoatz is asking that the dozens of organizations and thousands of supporters who have joined the call to release him from solitary confinement take action now by demanding that Secretary Wetzel follow the recommendation of SCI Mahanoy and authorize Maroon's immediate release into the general prison population.

Twenty-two consecutive years in solitary is more than long enough!

**DEMAND** that Maroon be placed in general population **IMMEDIATELY!**

Call/Write to: PA DOC Secretary John Wetzel, 1920 Technology Parkway, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050; Phone number: 717-728-4109; Fax: 717-728-4178

### **8 Jul - Urgent call-in for Mutulu Shakur**

*A comrade from The Jericho Movement visited Mutulu on July 4th and he is doing better but asked that folks call the prison to ask that he receive physical therapy and a Neurologist for a evaluation.*

#### **MORE:**

Call the Warden and Fax your demands for decent medical treatment, physical therapy and rehab. Also demand that as long as he is held captive he be held at a place near to his family and friends and that his visits, emails, mail and calls be without restriction.

**WARDEN'S PHONE 760.530.5000**

**WARDENS FAX 760.530.5102**